Response of Banks to Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

1695. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment are aware of the fact that the banks have not been till now very enthusiastic about the project under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana; and

(b) if so, what time bound measures are being taken for all allocations and release of funds under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is being implemented throughout the country with effect from 1st April, 1994. The performance of banks as regards implementation of the Scheme, has shown progressive improvement. The details of the banks' performance during the last three years as furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are indicated below:

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

Programme Year	Target	No.	Total loans sanctioned Amount	Total loans Disbursed No.	Amount
1993-94	42040	29601	18326.10	18859	11061.30
1994-95	239215	182718	102592.47	112761	59526.65
1995-96	321360	269725	1566,43.18	188072	101032.41

As per the present guidelines issued by RBI on priority sector advances (including PMRY), cases involving loan limit upto Rs. 25,000/-shall be disposed within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,00Q/-, within 8 to 9 weeks.

Request for excise duty reduction on tobacco products

1696. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various tobacco farmers unions pleaded for reduction of excise duty on their products;

(b) whether it is a fact that heavy excise duties are harming tobacco farmers of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) what steps are proposed to make tobacco cultivation attractive, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from various associations, including tobacco farmer's associations, seeking reduction in exicse duty on tobacco products. Excise duty rates have been prescribed after taking into consideration all relevant factors including the interests of the tobacco farmers.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Vacant posts in nationalised banks/ insurance companies

1697. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of top ranking posts at present lying vacant in nationalised banks and the insurance companies indicating the date from which posts are lying vacant; and

(b) the reasons for not filling up such posts and by when these posts will be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The details of the posts of Chairman and Managing Directors in nationalised banks and insurance companies lying vacant and the dates from which they are lying vacant are furnished below: -

SI. No.	Name of the bank/ insurance company	Date from which vacant
1.	Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation of India	1.2.1996
2.	Chairman and Managing Director, United India Insurance Company	1.6.1996
3.	Chairman and Managing Director, Canara Bank	1.9.1996
4.	Chairman and Managing Director, UCO Bank	23.10.1996
5.	Chairman and Managing Director, Corporation Bank	5.2.1997

Necessary steps for filling up of these vacanices have been initiated.

Applications received for setting up local area banks

1698. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Ministe of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to starred Question 51 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th February, 1997 and state:

(a) the applications received so far for setting up local area banks, State-wise; and

(b) when the licences will be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that 105 applications for establishment of such banks were received by them as on 15.2.1997. The State-wise details are given below:—

	Name of the State	No. of application received
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22
2.	Uttar Pradesh	19
3	Gujarat	15
4.	Kerala	10
5.	Maharashtra	9
6.	Rajasthan	4
7.	Karnataka	5
8.	Madhya Pradesh	2
9.	Tamilnadu	3
10.	Goa	2
11.	Haryana	2
12.	Punjab	5
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1
14.	Multi State (Area of operation spread over more than one State)	8
		105

'In principle' approval has been issued during January 1997 in respect of two-proposed Local Area Banks—one in Maharashtra for three districts viz. Aurangabad, Jalna and Jalgaon and the other in Karnataka for three districts viz. Uttar Kannada, Dakshina Kannada and Shimoga. The licences for these banks